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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/032,766	12/26/2001	Jeffrey Rodman	PA1086US	5760
22830	7590	11/28/2005		
CARR & FERRELL LLP 2200 GENG ROAD PALO ALTO, CA 94303			EXAMINER ZHONG, CHAD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2152	
DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/032,766	Applicant(s) RODMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Chad Zhong	Art Unit 2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/17/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.
2. Applicant is required to update the status (pending, allowed, etc.) of all parent priority applications in the first line of the specification. The status of all citations of US filed applications in the specification should also be updated where appropriate.
3. The use of the trademark Microsoft, among others have been noted in this application (pg 1 [0004], pg 12, [0035]). It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology. Appropriate correction is required to the entire specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a. The following terms lack antecedent basis:
 - i. the program - claim 19, line 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United

Art Unit: 2152

States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371 (c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sun et al. (hereinafter Sun), US 6,501,740.

6. As per claim 1, Sun teaches a conference endpoint, comprising:

a network interface for couple the conference endpoint to a computer network (Fig 3, item 315, 317; Fig 3a, item 321, 324, wherein the connection / connectionless oriented interfaces exist on the call server, which is an end node, additionally, client devices also contains communication interfaces in the means of modem or other form of network access interface);

a data conference initiation module coupled to the network interface for transmitting a data conference initiation request (Col. 3, lines 28-40, wherein conferee 315 passes authentication information to the server 316 to initiate a request for conference, the request is going through a connectionless network, meaning both the client and the server have connectionless oriented network interface) to a conference server over the computer network and for receiving a data conference code generated by the conference server over the computer network (see for example, Col. 3, lines 42-50, wherein the conference code based on availability of services is passed to the initial requestor).

7. As per claim 2, Sun teaches the data conference initiation module is further configured for transmitting a data conference invitation to a remote device over a conference bridge, the data conference invitation including information representative of the data conference code (Col. 4, lines 4-9, wherein the invitation is sent to remote conferees to join conference, conference identification information was initially given by said server).

8. As per claim 3, Sun teaches the conference invitation comprises a string of Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) tones (Col. 4, line 9).

Art Unit: 2152

9. As per claim 4, Sun teaches the conference bridge transmits in-band audio signals (wherein the PSTN network and DTMF signals operates on is used for telephone network signaling over the line in the voice frequency band to the call switching center).

10. As per claim 5, Sun teaches the data conference initiation module transmits the conference initiation request in response to a predetermined user input (Col. 3, lines 28-40, lines 60-67, wherein the predetermined input such as hypertext file or user entry are initial pre-requisite for the request).

11. As per claim 6, Sun teaches the data conference initiation module is further configured to transmit a conference join request to the conference server over the computer network responsive to a received conference invitation (see for example, Col. 8, lines 10-20, the server initially schedules a predetermined time for the conference, thereafter, the conferee are connected / joined to the server on their own initiative).

12. As per claim 7, Sun teaches the conference code uniquely identifies the conference (Col. 4, lines 4-9).

13. As per claim 8, Sun teaches a method for initiating and maintaining a data conference, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a data conference initiation requesting to a conference server over a computer network (Col. 3, lines 28-40, wherein conferee 315 passes authentication information to the server 316);

receiving at a local conference endpoint an unique data conference code from the conference server over the computer network (see for example, Col. 3, lines 42-50, wherein the conference code based on availability of services is passed to the initial requestor; Col. 4, lines 4-10);

generating an audio signal representative of the conference code (Col. 4, lines 4-9, audio signal being DTMF signal); and

transmitting the audio signal to at least one remote conference endpoint over a conference bridge (Col. 4, lines 4-9, signals transmitted over PSTN bridge to remote conference end points).

14. As per claim 9, Sun teaches generating a string of DTMF tones (Col. 4, lines 4-9).

15. As per claim 10, Sun teaches establishing a connection between the local conference endpoint and the at least one remote conference endpoint (Fig 3, item 315 and 311, conferences established over the Internet).

16. As per claim 11, Sun teaches the at least one remote conference endpoint responsively transmits a conference join request including the conference code to the conference server (see for example, Col. 8, lines 10-27; Col. 4, lines 4-10).

17. As per claim 12, Sun teaches maintaining a list of data conference participants at the conference server based on received data conference join requests (Col. 5, line 64 – Col. 6, line 6, wherein the list containing all parties whom joined the same conference along with their corresponding conversations are recorded on the server side).

18. As per claim 13, Sun teaches transmitting conference data from the conference server to the data conference participants (Col. 4, lines 4-10; Col. 8, lines 10-20).

19. As per claim 14, Sun teaches the conference code uniquely identifies the conference (Col. 4, lines 4-9).

20. As per claims 15 and 17, the claims are rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 4 above.

21. As per claim 16, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claims 1, 8, and 11

Art Unit: 2152

above.

22. As per claim 19, Sun teaches the program being executable by a machine (Fig 3, item 315, 311 are machines) to perform method steps wherein the conference bridge is a telephone line (Col. 4, line 14, wherein PSTN is telephone network comprising of telephone lines).

23. As per claim 18, Sun teaches a machine readable medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a machine to perform method steps for coordinating a conference, the method steps comprising:

transmitting a conference initiation request to a conference server over a computer network (Col. 3, lines 29-40);

receiving a conference code from the conference server in response to the conference initiating request over the computer network (Col. 3, lines 41-50; Col. 4, lines 4-10; Col. 8, lines 10-20);

generating an audio signal representative of the conference code (Col. 4, lines 4-9); and

transmitting the audio signal to at least one conference endpoint over a conference bridge (Col. 4, lines 4-9, Fig 3, items 315, 311).

24. As per claim 20, claim 20 is rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 18 above.

Conclusion

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents and publications are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COORDINATING A CONFERENCE USING A DEDICATED SERVER".

- i. US 5812652 Jodoin et al.

Art Unit: 2152

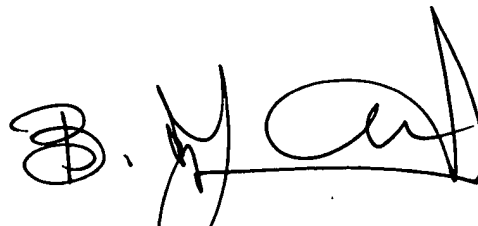
- ii. US 2001/0016038 Sammon et al.
- iii. US 6501739 Cohen

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Zhong whose telephone number is (571)272-3946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:15 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAROENCHONWANIT, BUNJOB can be reached on (571)272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CZ
November 21, 2005



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
PRIMARY EXAMINER